

Everyone Plays A Role

The commission again coordinated "Water Snapshot" in 2001, an annual event that draws basin residents to the banks of their streams, lakes, and rivers to check out the water quality.



Faced with the challenge of measuring the water quality of the Delaware River, a youngster concentrates on conductivity readings during a 2001 Snapshot event at Lambertville, New Jersey.

"This popular, water quality sampling activity takes a 'snapshot' of the health of Delaware River Basin waterways for 10 days around Earth Day, April 22," DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier noted. "We hope Water Snapshot will not only create a heightened awareness about our watersheds and the need for stewardship, but provide much-deserved recognition to those volunteers who participate in water quality monitoring programs throughout the year."

Snapshot is an opportunity for the young and old, experienced and first-timers, to collect water quality data.

Some participants conduct a visual assessment while others use simple test kits or sophisticated instruments. The data are recorded on sheets provided to participants and forwarded to the DRBC, where the information is posted on the commission's web site.

"Snapshot results are compiled without regard to the precision of the testing equipment or the expertise of the data collector, so they are not intended to reflect exact science," Ms. Collier said. "These results, however, certainly demonstrate the public's desire to learn more about the quality of the basin's waters."

Thanks to donations from the William Penn Foundation and the DRBC, a limited number of free, water sampling kits were made available to interested schools and organizations on a first-come, first-served basis.

Several training opportunities were offered to interested Snapshot participants, thanks to the efforts of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) and Delaware Stream Watch, a

joint effort of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Delaware Nature Society.

In addition to the DRBC, the Snapshot steering committee includes representatives from DNREC, Delaware Estuary Program, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, National Park Service, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Pennsylvania DCNR, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, PEEC, Upper Delaware Council, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

You can learn more about Water Snapshot by visiting the DRBC web site at: <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/snapshot.htm>.